

**Lead Entity Advisory Group Report**  
to the  
Salmon Recovery Funding Board, May 2010  
Prepared and Submitted by LEAG Chair, Richard Brocksmith

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Lead Entities from around the state gathered in Leavenworth April 26 – 28 for the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) Training and Retreat, supported by the Recreation and Conservation Office. In addition to RCO and the 25 watersheds represented by lead entities, other key participants included Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Puget Sound Partnership, regional organization staff, and Paladin Data Systems. The training event was organized and conducted by members of LEAG and agency staff.

The purpose of the training event was to share lead entity and SRFB operational information and experiences, to build better relationships among watershed and agency staff, to support professional development of lead entity coordinators, and to plan and strengthen our shared vision for salmon recovery.

The agenda focused on improving lead entity capital project planning, implementation scheduling and reporting, SRFB grant round training, and challenges/lessons learned. A central focus of the training event was the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) and its use in helping tell the salmon recovery story. Lead entities from the Snake River, Hood Canal, Skagit, Duwamish-Green, and the San Juans, as well as the Upper Columbia salmon recovery region, presented exciting case studies on their use of the HWS highlighting common issues and challenges. LEAG developed a common understanding for how we can begin to bridge project planning and implementation reporting with HWS, and, frankly, identified significant challenges.

Ninety six percent of lead entities completed a HWS assessment survey (developed before the training event by RCO/GSRO staff) that revealed a groundswell of support to improve their use and knowledge of HWS to help tell their salmon recovery story and to address data quality issues. Support was expressed for PRISM – HWS alignment and strengthening HWS ability for implementation scheduling. Surprising support was expressed for use of HWS for programmatic, non-SRFB related activities, including regulatory and outreach/education program tracking.

Our meeting on May 6 will continue to refine next steps, priorities for HWS development, and coordination with RCO/GSRO staff. We will also schedule another year of upcoming meetings, prepare for officer elections, and review upcoming SRFB agenda topics.